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in the kangaroos and jerboas, in the orders Marsupialia and Rodentia.

There are a good many structures in the skeleton of the Mammalia which have not yet received a satisfactory explanation on the ground of mechanical necessity. Such, for instance, appears to me to be the condition of the history of the origin of the canine tooth; that is its use in preference to an incisor for raptorial purposes. Such may be also the history of the origin of the complex vertebral articulations of the American Edentata, as compared with the simple articulations of the Old World. In these, as in similar cases, however, an element enters which must be taken into account in seeking for explanations; that is, that every evolution is determined at its inception by the material or type from which it originates. Thus is explained the fact that identical uses have not produced identical structures in the limbs of all aquatic animals. The fin of the fish is essentially different from the paddle of the Ichthyosaurus or the whale. The beak of the rapatorial bird is different from the canine tooth of the rapacious mammal. When this principle is duly considered, many mechanical explanations will become clear, which now seem to be involved in difficulty or mystery.—*E. D. Cope.*

PSYCHOLOGY.

GRASSHOPPER REASONING.—I was on the railroad train from Newport, Vermillion County, for Terre Haute. A grasshopper in a heedless spring lit on the glass window of the coach. It was a warm, dry, dusty day of the drouthy summer. That little hopper looked through the glass and seemed astonished; the car was moving with increasing velocity, and thus surrounded by the current of air, the quiver and rattle of the car, seemed afraid to jump; and perhaps recalling the terrors of railroad accidents, was too cautious to fall off. So, calmly studying the situation, he decided to stay and ride to the next station.

On the polished surface of the giving, dusty glass, his feet became dry and his footing insecure. Mental resources came to his rescue. His memory and reason notified him that he must keep the suction cushions of his feet wet to insure an adhesive vacuum. So, after carefully planting his feet in safety, he carefully raised one foot to his mouth or lips and moistened it. It was a success, as reason and old memories and hopper philosophy had told him. Another and another foot was so moistened, and the hopper, armed with memory, prudence, and philosophic reason, rode on the train to the next sta-

tion, affording entertainment to several admiring friends. Hon. John Whitcomb, of Clinton, first called our attention to the cute little fellow.—*C., in Indiana Farmer.*

FROGS EATING SNAKES.—For several months I have kept in the house a sort of “zoological garden” in which there have been a few specimens of frogs, salamanders, and snakes. A few weeks ago I placed therein two full-grown leopard frogs and a hog-nosed viper about nine or ten inches in length. There were already in the box two garter-snakes two feet long and three salamanders—nothing else at that time. For a time everything went well, but about two weeks later the little viper was missing. A diligent search failed to find it, and careful examination of the cage showed no place of escape. The disappearance seemed quite mysterious, and the conclusion reached was that it had fallen a victim to cannibalism on the part of one of the other reptiles, although neither showed any signs of having feasted so extensively. Ten or fifteen days later a friend and I went to take a look at the pets. We found in the excrement of one of the frogs what on examination proved to be the skin, etc., of a snake, apparently the lost viper. When first found not more than half the length had passed, and the process was evidently causing the frog considerable effort. It was using its hind feet to assist in freeing itself.

Was the inference that the frog had swallowed the snake justifiable? I had never heard of such an occurrence; nor have I since been able to find any one who has. I was greatly surprised, for it seemed to me almost impossible. The swallowing of frogs by snakes I have several times seen, but I have never known the operation to be reversed, except in this instance.—*H. L. Roberts, Lewistown, Ill.*

ARCHÆOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY.¹

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY held its fifth annual meeting in the National Museum at Washington, D. C., beginning December 26, and continuing three days.

Among the many papers read, about the only one bearing upon Anthropology was that of Major Powell, introducing a “Language Map of North America.” This map was displayed before the audience and the different Indian languages depicted thereon by different colors. An abstract of the Major’s remarks and description is as follows:

¹ This Department is edited by Thomas Wilson, Esq., Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.